

Editorial

New Features to *Medical and Pediatric Oncology*

This issue of *Medical and Pediatric Oncology* contains the first of a set of feature articles that will appear from time to time in its pages. These will include a series to be entitled “**Topical Topics**” that will provide readers with succinct reviews of recent advances in laboratory, clinical, and epidemiologic research. Another set will be titled “**Cancer Controversies**,” in which authorities will present the pros and cons of debatable issues that practicing physicians or laboratory scientists confront frequently on a daily basis. Another group of articles will be a continuation of the publication of incidental items of more general interest, such as short biographies (“**Silhouettes**”) of important figures in oncology. The general heading “**Annals and Chronicles**” therefore seems appropriate for this feature.

The pages of *Medical and Pediatric Oncology* also provide an excellent forum for the publication of studies concerning the etiology and epidemiology of cancer, and articles dealing with these issues continue to be welcome. Recent examples are the several papers presented at the Second International Conference on Molecular and Clinical Genetics of Childhood Renal Tumors. They are to be found in *Medical and Pediatric Oncology*, volume 27, number 5 (November 1996).

To further the dissemination of such knowledge, this issue contains the first of what will also be a regular feature entitled “**Childhood Cancer Etiology: Recent Reports**.” Special arrangements with the Children’s Cancer Research Fund Epidemiology Research Unit of the University of Minnesota has made this possible. The

editors will be Stella M. Davies, M.D., Ph.D., and Julie A. Ross, Ph.D. They, together with William G. Woods, M.D., have for many years distributed the *C3 Newsletter*, which reviews and interprets current reports dealing with the Causes of Childhood Cancer (hence the “C3” title).

This writer has found the *C3 Newsletter* to be uniquely useful in calling attention to interesting and thought-provoking publications that would otherwise be easily overlooked. Equally important, the brief but insightful comments appended to each of the abstracts have been very helpful in placing the information within the vast body of knowledge in this rapidly expanding and complex field.

We are extremely grateful to Drs. Davies and Ross and their associates for allowing *MPO* to bring this valuable resource to our readers. A group of selected articles from C3 will be published in each volume of *MPO*; that is, twice a year. This month, they can be found on page 4.

Finally, and in this same vein, there will be found on page 7 an editorial provided by Dr. Ross concerning the interpretation of articles dealing with epidemiologic research. It warrants careful reading.

The Editors undertake these initiatives with the hope that the readers of *Medical and Pediatric Oncology* will find them interesting, instructive, stimulating—and even provocative at times.

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Editor-in-Chief